

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(March 7, 2019)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority held a Public Hearing to consider comments on the Proposed Special Event Fare Change and then met in regular session at Pier 1, Port of San Francisco.

1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Breckenridge, Vice Chair James Wunderman, Director Anthony Intintoli, and Director Nick Josefowitz were in attendance.

3. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL EVENT FARE CHANGE

Senior Planner/Project Manager Michael Gougherty opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Special Event Fare Change at 1:09 p.m. He explained that to date only one email had been received in response to WETA's solicitation for public comments, and he noted that this comment was related to future service planned at Mission Bay. Because there was no one in the room who wanted to comment on the matter, Chair Breckenridge closed the public hearing at 1:10 p.m.

4. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Breckenridge said she has been exploring new maritime and military innovations in the transportation realm and that she has upcoming meetings to discuss potential partnerships and other opportunities related to an industrial manufacturing grant awarded to the state, and to green initiatives currently being explored by other ferry systems in the country.

5. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Directors had no reports to share.

6. REPORTS OF STAFF

Ms. Rannells shared her written report with Directors. She reported that she and WETA's Operations & Maintenance Manager Keith Stahnke had recently met with San Francisco Coast Guard Sector Captain Tony Ceraolo who had personally provided them with two Certificates of Inspection for new WETA vessels. It was noted that Captain Ceraolo would soon finish his rotation in San Francisco but that his current Deputy was expected to take his place.

Ms. Rannells also reported that WETA and Blue & Gold Fleet staff had held an informal, quiet christening event at WETA's North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility to welcome the new North Bay vessel, the MV *Pyxis*, to the fleet. She said staff had hosted an event later that day that invited Vallejo passengers as they arrived back home from their commutes to board their new vessel, and explore it up close. Ms. Rannells said that the level of engagement and enthusiasm from existing riders and members of the community was terrific. She added that these participants were very excited and happy about the new vessel and their opportunity to check it out, including a visit to the vessel's pilot

house, before it was in full service. Ms. Rannells acknowledged WETA's Public Information & Marketing Manager, Thomas Hall, and WETA's newest employee, Operations Administrator Rachel Rodriguez, for their work on this event.

Ms. Rannells said she had recently met with California Assemblymember David Chiu to share updates with him about WETA's work. She said it had been a good meeting and that their discussion had been productive.

Ms. Rannells reminded Directors of the presentation they had received at the February meeting about Treasure Island ferry service development, and she said staff had since met with Tilly Chang, Executive Director of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), along with other SFCTA staff about the project. Ms. Rannells said staff would be returning, along with project leaders, to present updates to the Board at the April meeting.

Ms. Rannells updated Directors on Tideline landings at the WETA Harbor Bay terminal for one of their client's private charter weekday vessel service between Alameda and South San Francisco. She said that everything required for the agreement the Directors had approved to support the private landings had been received by WETA, and that the Tideline charter service had started on February 27.

Vice Chair Wunderman asked about the status of WETA doing a study on potential hovercraft utilization for WETA service and Ms. Rannells said she had instructed staff to move forward with putting together a scope and plan for the suggested study, to include costs and details for Directors' consideration. She said the Board should expect to see the study scope and hear further details at the April meeting. Director Josefowitz reiterated his interest in studying hovercraft vessels as a potential replacement for current routes and service with an objective of making all current trips faster.

Ms. Rannells reported back on her recent meeting regarding fare integration for the various transportation agencies in the Bay Area. She said one of the biggest takeaways from that meeting was the appeal to all of integrating not only fares but service across agencies and counties. Director Josefowitz shared some details about recent efforts at BART that he has been involved in to integrate service across Bay Area agencies to make it easier and less confusing for people to get around when they have to use more than one mode of public transportation. He said this work that continues will offer WETA the opportunity to revisit its fares, especially with regard to when they are paid in concert with additional transportation fares because riders have to utilize multiple modes of transport to reach their destinations.

Chair Breckenridge thanked staff for including the details of the December emergency response activities in the March Executive Director's Report. She noted that WETA is the agency mandated to coordinate emergency and disaster related water transportation for evacuation and transport of first responders and when WETA needs to call on its partners to support those efforts, both staff and partners will need clarity on protocol. Chair Breckenridge said she would like visibility on the agreements and understandings that are supporting these expectations for WETA's partners.

Vice Chair Wunderman commended Ms. Rannells on her thorough report and said that the many projects detailed within it reflected the good and important work that WETA is doing to provide the Bay Area with robust ferry service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Long time Vallejo rider Ross Woody thanked Directors for the new vessels recently added to WETA's fleet. He said he was not pleased about having fewer tables on the new vessels than there were on the MV *Mare Island* or the MV *Vallejo*. He explained that the coat hooks needed to be moved and said there was an issue with cabin pressure that needed adjustment on the new vessels. He further noted

that there were no arm rests in between the seats which made the seats feel cramped. Mr. Woody said the padded benches on the new vessels were too soft, and that a canvas covering over one of the San Francisco terminals was torn. He said that the Vallejo terminal needed shelter for riders, and added that he had documented and emailed all of these concerns to Ms. Rannells.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous meeting guest asked if there was any funding available for discretionary expansion.

Ms. Rannells explained that there was currently a call for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) discretionary funding applications for projects and that staff was looking at what WETA projects in development would be a good fit and meet the program requirements.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2019
- b. Authorize Submission of an Allocation Request to the California Department of Transportation for FY 2018/19 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Grant Funds

Vice Chair Wunderman seconded the motion and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Josefowitz, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono.

8. APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT FARE CHANGE

Senior Planner/Project Manager Mike Gougherty presented this item to approve the special event and ballpark fare changes proposed at the February Board meeting. Mr. Gougherty explained that the fare changes were required to comply with the special event fare policy established for WETA special event service by Directors in 2011. Mr. Gougherty reviewed the ways the proposed changes had been noticed to WETA's riders and the general public, including website posts, Bay Alert messages sent directly to riders, and flyers on the vessels. He said that one public comment had been received in response to the outreach, and it was related to ferry service at Mission Bay. Because of this, and because of the requirement that WETA fully recover its special event service operating costs, he recommended that Directors approve the special event fare changes.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item:

Chair Breckenridge seconded the motion and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Josefowitz, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono.

9. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

- a. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION; CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE: CHAIR BRECKENRIDGE)**

Chair Breckenridge explained that no decisions had been made, and no actions taken, during a closed session meeting that had occurred earlier in the day. She said no further closed session for this item would take place.

10. OPEN SESSION

Chair Breckenridge offered Directors a Resolution for adoption to increase the WETA Executive Director's annual gross salary to \$270,000, effective the first pay period of March 2019, and to approve

and authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors to execute Amendment No. 3 to the Employment Agreement between WETA and Nina Rannells in accordance with the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Bellows of MARAD said that Nina Rannells was well worth the salary increase proposed.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Josefowitz, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DeIBono.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Bellows said that WETA had been doing a super job getting the word out with marketing for the new Richmond service and with the recent media attention on the fleet and new facilities.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END